

REMARKS

Prior to the filing of this response, claims 37-39, 51-52 and 67-71 were pending in the application.

In this response, claims 37 and 71 are amended to clarify that the compressible mat is suitable for forming into a composite substrate that is a wood material suitable for use in the construction industry such as, for example, hardboard, medium density fiberboard, oriented strand board, particle board, or plywood. In other words, the composite substrate can be overlain by a sheet of paper, but the composite substrate is not itself a sheet of paper. The amendments to claims 37 and 71 are supported throughout the specification as filed. For example, the initial paragraphs of the background section and the detailed description of the application refer to such construction materials, as do the working examples.

New claims 72-76 are added, which are directed to preferred embodiments of the presently claimed process. In particular, the working examples in the specification state that the compressible mat is suitable for forming into constructions materials such as a door skin or an exterior siding product.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests further examination of the present application and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed on July 15, 2008.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss any aspect of this application.

Date:

January 8, 2010
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